

## The Tractor Battalion of 1997

When a hundred years have passed and future generations are looking back on our club as it is today, they will be able to recall the stories they have heard about the epic deeds and stunning victories Dunnamaggin have performed on the hurling and football fields up to today but will anyone remember “The Tractor Battalion of 1997?” I think they will because who could forget the sight of 29 tractors taking over the roads between here and the Slate Quarries in the name and cause of the GAA.

One Saturday in late September, the 29 tractors and trailers involved in this magnificent demonstration of parish unity, gathered in Dunnamaggin GAA pitch under the command of Aidan Farrell - the leader in chief, to do the undoable, bring the mountain to Mohammed (or rather bring the clay to build the banks of the pitch to Dunnamaggin). The tractors and trailers, the drivers, the traffic directors and everyone involved worked hard all morning bringing the clay from the Slate Quarries to it's new home. Half the parish was out to see the huge convoy of tractors working together like a well oiled machine. Come one o' clock, the cliché 'an army marches on it's stomach' became true as the tractor battalion slowly ground to a halt for lunch. The lunch quickly disappeared but not without scarring certain people for life, leaving them possibly never feeling safe eating a sandwich again. This was due in no small measure to the unusual filling created by our very own gourmet chef - Billy Heffernan.

After the troops had been fed it was back to work again. Everybody worked hard all day Saturday and something like 190 loads of clay were brought from seven miles away through sheer effort. This is what Dunnamaggin is !!!!

So all I can say is that the next time you are standing on these hallowed banks around our pitch, just remember the sweat and hard work that went into creating them and feel privileged.

Mairead O'Donovan